

REMARKS

The Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated January 15, 2003. Claims 34 to 38 are in the application, of which Claims 34 and 36 to 38 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4 to 6, 26, 27 and 31 to 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 5,801,856 (Moghadam), and Claims 18 to 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Moghadam. In response, Claims 1, 2, 4 to 6, 18 to 20, 26, 27 and 31 to 33 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and without conceding the correctness of the rejection. New Claims 34 to 38 have been substituted therefor.

Examination of new Claims 34 to 38 is requested. Each of the claims includes at least the feature of outputting the digital signature to an external device, where the digital signature is generated from data and secret key information which was obtained from the external device.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa,
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our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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